



## Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

**Steven L. Beshear, Governor**

**Leonard K. Peters, Secretary**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Commonwealth Cleanup Week March 16-23** ***Promotes personal responsibility for clean surroundings***

**Frankfort, Ky.** (March 11, 2013) – It's time to put on your old blue jeans and work boots and participate in this year's Commonwealth Cleanup Week March 16-23.

Volunteers from across Kentucky are set to fill trash bags and pick up old tires during the 15<sup>th</sup> annual event.

The weeklong initiative is implemented by the Energy and Environment Cabinet (EEC) and kicks off the Great American Cleanup, which spans from March through May. Its purpose is to provide Kentucky communities with an opportunity to "spring clean," recycle and promote personal responsibility across the Commonwealth.

EEC Secretary Len Peters said Commonwealth Cleanup Week encourages Kentuckians to take ownership of their communities' environment. "I am impressed each year with the number of Kentuckians who participate in this annual event. Thousands give their time to numerous cleanup projects, picking up litter and trash from our roadways, valley and streams, and recycling where possible."

During the 2012 cleanup week, more than 28,000 Kentuckians picked up 65,392 bags of trash and 6,053 tires along 5,546 miles of roadway. In addition, these same volunteers cleaned 12 illegal dumps.

Kentucky Educational Television (KET) once again will promote this year's event, and Kentucky Life host Dave Shuffett will be taping a special "Dave Does It" segment during Commonwealth Cleanup Week.

In addition, Clark County solid waste coordinator and songwriter Gary Epperson, has penned a song, "Bluegrass is Going Green," with a voiceover featuring Kentucky First Lady Jane Beshear to be used in public service announcements. You can see the PSA online at <http://waste.ky.gov/RLA/Pages/CCW.aspx>.

Heidi Douglas Greer with the Kentucky Mountain Trio, a group of young musicians from McCreary and Whitley counties, add their voices to the production. Greer also has another environmental litter awareness music video, Please Don't Litter, which is currently being used around the country for litter abatement awareness campaigns. You can see an example on the Keep Michigan Beautiful's website at [www.KeepMichiganBeautiful.org](http://www.KeepMichiganBeautiful.org).

"We need every citizen, business, school, government body and organization to join together as one team with a mission that together is our only chance to ever 'Get and Keep our Beautiful Bluegrass State of Kentucky Clean and Green'," said Epperson.

Nonprofit groups that register with their county solid waste coordinator and complete a Commonwealth Cleanup Week cleanup are eligible to win one of six \$100 cash prizes in a random drawing to be held in May.

Visit the DWM's website at <http://waste.ky.gov/RLA/Pages/CCW.aspx> for scheduled events and a listing of county solid waste coordinators in Kentucky.

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